

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[52] An electronic rights management and authorization system to account for the dynamic, multi-dimensional, and granular nature of rights. A database structure divides works and rights into two related tables. A works table includes information sufficient to identify works managed by the system, while a rights table identifies a right associated with a work and includes one or more date fields delimiting the right. The rights table may also include type of use information. Additional tables, such as a work relation table, a party table, or an order table, may be provided. Software is used to manage and to query the database structure. The system has broad applicability to intellectual, real, and personal property; contract management; and similar items. The system may be implemented in standalone mode, through the client/server model of computing, or over the Internet.